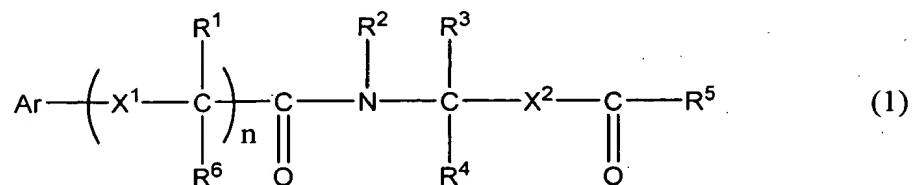


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~di- or tripeptide derivative~~ peptide having a naphthyl group and represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

Ar represents a unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having ~~which may have~~ one or more substituents,

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> each represent independently a hydrogen atom ~~or a~~, an unsubstituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an unsubstituted~~ branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which may have, a substituted~~ straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,

R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, ~~a guanidiny~~ an unsubstituted guanidino group, a an unsubstituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an unsubstituted~~ branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an~~ unsubstituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a an unsubstituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an~~ unsubstituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or an~~ unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, a substituted amino acid side chain having one or more substituents, a substituted amino group having one or more

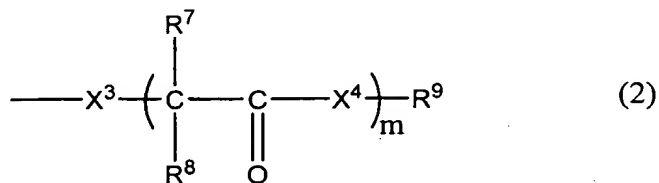
substitutents, a substituted amidino group having one or more substitutents, a substituted guanidino group having one or more substitutents, a substituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, or a substituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms ~~all of which may have and~~ one or more substitutents,

X<sup>1</sup> is a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, or a unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, wherein said ~~which may have as a substituent is selected from the group consisting of~~ a straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or~~ a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or~~ a straight-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a ~~or~~ branched-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X<sup>2</sup> is a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R<sup>6</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n represents an integer of 0 or 1, and  $R^5$  represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



wherein

$X^3$  represents -O- or -NR<sup>10</sup>-,

$X^4$  represents -O- or -NR<sup>11</sup>-,

$R^7$  represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

$R^8$ ,  $R^{10}$ , and  $R^{11}$  each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

$R^9$  represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and

m represents an integer of 0 or 1, and

wherein the following specific peptide is excluded by proviso

<u>Ar</u>	<u>Unsubstituted naphthyl</u>	<u>X<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>X<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>CH<sub>2</sub></u>	<u>X<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>NR<sup>10</sup></u>
<u>n</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>R<sup>10</sup></u>	<u>H</u>
<u>R<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>H</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>R<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>NHY</u>	<u>R<sup>7</sup></u>	<u>Tyrosine side chain</u>
<u>Y</u>	<u>Acetyl</u>	<u>R<sup>8</sup></u>	<u>H</u>
<u>R<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>H</u>	<u>X<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>O</u>
<u>R<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R<sup>9</sup></u>	<u>CH<sub>3</sub></u>
<u>R<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>C<sub>3</sub>-guanidinoalkyl.</u>		

2. (Currently Amended) The peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

Ar of Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> of Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

R<sup>4</sup> of Formula (1) represents a basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a ~~guanidine~~ guanidino group,

X<sup>1</sup> of Formula (1) is a methylene group,

X<sup>2</sup> of Formula (1) is a single bond,

R<sup>6</sup> of Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n of Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and

R<sup>5</sup> of Formula (1) represents a group represented by Formula (2),

wherein

X<sup>3</sup> of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

X<sup>4</sup> of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

R<sup>7</sup> of formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R<sup>8</sup> of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom,

R<sup>9</sup> of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

and m of Formula (2) represents an integer of 0 or 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said peptide derivative represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH<sub>2</sub>, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH<sub>2</sub>, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH<sub>2</sub> or L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH<sub>2</sub>.

4. (Currently Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

5. (Currently Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a ~~melanocyte-stimulating hormone-inhibiting compound-exhibiting~~ peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1 that exhibits a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC<sub>50</sub>) of 100 nM or less.

6. (Currently Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

7. (Currently Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

8. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide derivative or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

13. (Currently Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

14. (Currently Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

15. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

16. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

17. (Currently Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

18. (Currently Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

19. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-19 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 1-19 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed. In addition, support for the amendment of Claims 1-19 can be found in the specification as originally filed at pages 4-43.

No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment.